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XXIII.—TRUSS FOR RUPTURES, &c.

The SILVER VULCAN MEDAL was this Session given to Mr. J. PACKHAM, of Maidstone, for his SELF-ADJUSTING TRUSS FOR RUPTURES, AND BANDAGE FOR PROLAPSUS ANI, specimens of which have been placed in the Society's Repository.

THE wearers of common Rupture-trusses find, to their great inconvenience and occasional hazard, that when more than ordinary motion is given to the body, the pad will slip from its bearings, and descent of the intestine will immediately take place. The invention of connecting the pad to the bandage, by means of a ball-and-socket-joint allows of free motion in every direction, with little risk of displacement, except in cases where a considerable and partial lateral pressure occurs. If such pressure is sufficient to move the spring beyond the limits of the power of adjustment of the joint, the pad must necessarily be displaced. To obviate this risk has been the aim of Mr. Packham in the construction of his truss.

From the centre of the pad projects externally a brass stud, having a hole in its axis to receive a screw *r*, figs. 6, 7, plate VIII; the end *q* of the spring has a longitudinal slit in it through which the screw *r* passes, and thus connects the pad with the spring. If the screw were flat on the under side, it is obvious that by means of it a fixed adjustment may be obtained by fastening the pad to any part of the spring, within the limits of the slit, that may be most agreeable to the wearer. Such an adjustment has been occasionally introduced into trusses previously to Mr. Packham's invention, the peculiarity of

which consists in the following circumstances. The diameter of the screw is less than that of the slit; the head of the screw is carefully rounded on the under side, so that even when turned quite home, it makes no pressure on the spring; this latter, therefore, is at full liberty to yield to lateral pressure the whole length of the slit, as shown by the dotted lines, fig. 6, without displacing the pad. The rounded underside of the screw-head gives likewise nearly as much play as the ball-and-socket-joint, as shown in the dotted lines, fig. 7. The result of this is a truss, which, according to the annexed professional certificates, gives Mr. Packham's instrument an advantage over the others heretofore employed.

The same principle has been introduced by him with success into bandages for prolapsus ani. Fig. 8 represents a part of such bandage; *r* is the head of the screw; *s* is a metal sheath within which the end of the screw moves; *t t t* are the leather clothing. Fig. 9 is part of the same bandage in a position at right angles to fig. 8.

CERTIFICATES.

SIR;

Langham-place, April 2, 1827.

You have full liberty to use my name as approving your truss. I have tried it in several cases with superior advantages to other trusses. I consider the sliding adaptation to be a perfect contrivance; and the substantial workmanship of your instrument greatly enhances its durability and its fitness for persons using much exercise.

I am, Sir,

&c. &c. &c.

Mr. John Packham.

ANTHONY CARLISLE.

SIR ;

Maidstone, November 10, 1825.

I feel great pleasure in giving my testimony to the efficacy of Mr. John Packham's newly-improved truss, with a slit at one end of the spring, which I invariably recommend to my patients. I have made trial of the truss on my own person, and I find it is worn with comfort, and supports the protruding parts more effectually than any other truss with which I am acquainted, as the spring is so adapted to slip across the front pad by the variable attitudes of the body, and gives the front pad that equalized pressure and steadiness on the ring which secures the hernia effectually.

I am, Sir,

A. Aikin, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

*Secretary, &c. &c.**J. W. BATE, Surgeon.*

SIR ;

Borough High-street, February 16, 1826.

I have great pleasure in offering my testimony to the usefulness and efficacy of the truss improved and made by Mr. John Packham, of Maidstone, in a case of constant prolapsus of the rectum ; it completely prevented the disease, and was worn by the patient without inconvenience, and enabled him to walk with ease ; and it appears to be admirably adapted for this deplorable disease, and much superior to any other I have seen proposed for this complaint.

*A. Aikin, Esq.**T. CALLAWAY, Surgeon.**Secretary, &c. &c.*